like that. I do not want to blame the previous Government. When I was here, the then Government headed by Shri Chandra Shekhar pledged 25 tonnes of gold. I do not want to go into the details of all those things. it was well known to everybody as to what was the economic situation of the country then. So, at that time, the investors did not want to come because the Electricity Boards were in the red and the economic situation of the States was so bad and the country's economic situation was also in a crisis.

At that time the investors wanted some guarantee from the Government of India. Otherwise they did not want to invest here. On account of that, for eight projects which come within the period of one year after the announcement of the power policy, the Government of India has agreed to give counter guarantees for these eight fast track projects.

Sir, I would like to make myself clear. The intention of the Government is to see that these projects should be expedited as quickly as possible. I do not want to blame any Department of the Government of India here. The procedure is cumbersome. It will go to the Environment Department, it will go to the Central Electricity Authority and it will go to the Department of Economic Affairs. Like that, this itself is going to consume a lot of time. We do not want this type of procedure. We want to simplify it. That is why, tomorrow, I think, the legal notification is going to be issued so far as empowering the State Governments to clear projects upto Rs. 1,000 crore is concerned. There is no need to send these projects upto Rs. 1,000 crore to the Central Government for clearance.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, we appreciate that. No power project should come to the Central Government. We appreciate your stand about Rs. 1,000 crore. Even if there is a project of Rs. 10,000 crore the State must be asked to clear it. Why should it come to the Centre at all ? There is no need for the Centre to clear it and justify it...*(Interruptions)* I am not objecting to your policy. I am saying that you go upto Rs. 10,000 crore limit. Do not take it in your hands...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : If it is going to help us, we will examine that. Whether your suggestion is going to further improve, I will examine that. The purpose of taking this decision is only to help the States to see that the power projects are cleared.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

State Electricity Boards

*544. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the power consumption rates chargeable by different State Electricity Boards as compared with those agreed upon with private foreign and Indian power generating companies;

(b) whether the State Electricity Boards have made out a case for enhancement of electric supply rates on this ground, with respect to domestic, rural and commercial power supply;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the Government's response thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The tariff for sale of power to various categories of consumers is fixed by each State Electricity Board taking into account various technical and commercial factors including the pooled cost of generation and supply and purchase of power etc. The tariff for sale of power from private, foreign and Indian Generating Companies would be fixed, on completion, in accordance with the principles and norms laid down in the Government of India's Tariff Notification for Generating Companies. It is, therefore, not possible to compare the tariff rates for consumers chargeable by SEBs with that of private foreign and Indian Power Generating Companies. The power consumption rates chargeable by different SEBs as on date are enclosed as statement.

(b) No, Sir. As per the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 the SEBs/State Governments are empowered to fix the consumer tariff on their own.

(c) and (d) : Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

STATEMENT

Statement Showing Power Consumption Rates Including Electric Duty in Different SEBs - 1996-97

Sl. No.	States	Domestic	Commercial	Agricultural	Industrial
1.	Andhra Pradesh	111.00	261.00	4.75	270.00
2.	Assam	105.00	315.00	150.00	214.18
3.	Bihar	137.00	449.00	29.09	209.99
4.	Gujarat	169.50	376.40	61.22	271.59
5.	Haryana	171.00	255.00	55.10	255.00

Sl. No.	States	Domestic	Commercial	Agricultural	Industrial
6.	Himachal Pradesh	61.00	155.00	65.00	165.00
7.	Karnataka	150.00	390.00	2.00	247.17
8.	Kerala	77.00	313.00	14.21	116.57
9.	Madhya Pradesh	75.00	230.00	36.73	277.71
10.	Maharashtra	116.10	312.00	22.96	308.99
11.	Meghalaya	85.00	176.00	56.00	156.07
12.	Orissa	98.75	265.00	70.00	306.58
13.	Punjab	133.25	267.00	45.91	231.00
14.	Rajasthan	105.00	232.50	41.96	255.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	90.00	330.75	0.22	288.53
16.	Uttar Pradesh	120.00	263.63	47.29	282.16
17.	West Bengal	104.43	251.90	87.00	274.40

[Translation]

Irregularities in IAY

*545. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several irregularities have been committeed in Indira Awas Yojana;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof for the last three years; and

(c) the number of persons against whom action has been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) State Governments were asked to report irregularities committed, if any, in the implementation of Indira Awas Yojana. However, except Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and the UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands who have furnished 'nil' information no State has so far reported any such irregularities having been committed. This Ministry had received some complaints from Members of Parliament regarding irregularities committed in the selection of beneficiaries and corrupt practices being indulged in by some official. These have been referred to the concerned States for appropriate action. Besides, Members of Parliament have pointed out before various for a such as Consultative Committee and the Standing Committee, general issues about irregularities relating to poor quality of construction, engagement of contractors in construction of IAY houses and misutilisation of funds. While specific complaints are always referred to the concerned DRDAs/State Governments for inquiry and appropriate remedial action, the Ministry monitors the implementation of IAY through periodic progress reports, reviews, CAG's observations, evaluations and its own mechanism such as the Area Officers Scheme through which Officers of the Ministry designated as such for specific districts/States carry out sample inspection to see whether the scheme has been implemented in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry. In addition, the Ministry has recently issued instructions to the State Governments to set up Monitoring and Vigilance Committees at the block, district and the State levels to monitor and exercise vigilance over the implementation of various rural employment schemes. Among others, Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies, besides ex-MPs and MLAs are members of such Committees.

[English]

Production of Processed Fruits

*546. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase production of processed fruits;

(b) whether the Government propose to promote fruit processing industries at village level;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) the number of Food Processing Training Centres functional, State-wise and location-wise;

(e) criteria adopted for choosing the location for setting up the training centre; and

(f) the extent to which it will help in generating additional employment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (c) In order to promote processing of fruits, particularly at village level, the Government has been taking various steps to provide policy support, facilitation, consultancy etc. In addition, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing various developmental plan schemes, which include support for backward linkages, for marketing, R&D etc. One of these